

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
Notice of Funding Opportunity

Round 1: Concept Note

Due: December 13, 2021

1. Award Information

- a) **Funding Opportunity Title:** U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation Grants Program
- b) **Funding Opportunity Number:** AFCP-2021 – 2022-GP
- c) **CFDA Number:** 19.025
- d) **Floor on Amount of Each Awards:** US \$10,000 per project
- e) **Ceiling on Amount of Each Awards:** US \$500,000 per project
- f) **Round 1:** Concept Notes due on December 13, 2021
- g) **Round 2:** Full Application due on March 18, 2022

2. Program Description

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State announces an open competition for organizations to submit applications to participating U.S. embassies for funding through the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) to carry out an individual project to preserve cultural heritage in a specific priority country. Round One: Concept note is due on December 13, 2021 and Round Two: Full Application will be due on March 18, 2022. Issuance of this funding opportunity does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. government. Full implementation of this program is subject to the availability of funds. Please follow all instructions below.

3. Funding Areas:

The AFCP Grants Program supports the preservation of archaeological sites, historic buildings and monuments, museum collections, and forms of traditional cultural expression, such as indigenous languages and crafts. Appropriate project activities may include:

- a) Anastylis (reassembling a site from its original parts)
- b) Conservation (addressing damage or deterioration to an object or site)
- c) Consolidation (connecting or reconnecting elements of an object or site)
- d) Documentation (recording in analog or digital format the condition and salient features of an object, site, or tradition)
- e) Inventory (listing of objects, sites, or traditions by location, feature, age, or other unifying characteristic or state)
- f) Preventive Conservation (addressing conditions that threaten or damage a site, object, collection, or tradition)
- g) Restoration (replacing missing elements to recreate the original appearance of an object or site, usually appropriate only with fine arts, decorative arts, and historic buildings)

h) Stabilization (reducing the physical disturbance of an object or site)

4. Sites and Objects Having a Religious Connection:

The establishment clause of the U.S. Constitution permits the government to include religious objects and sites within an aid program under certain conditions. For example, an item with a religious connection (including a place of worship) may be the subject of a cultural preservation grant if the item derives its primary significance and is nominated solely on the basis of architectural, artistic, historical, or other cultural (not religious) criteria.

5. Eligible Project Implementers:

Defined as reputable and accountable non-commercial entities that can demonstrate they have the requisite capacity to manage projects to preserve cultural heritage. Eligible implementers may include non-governmental organizations, museums, educational institutions, ministries of culture, or similar institutions and organizations, including U.S.-based educational institutions and organizations subject to Section 501(c)(3) of the tax code. Award will not be granted to individuals, commercial entities, or past award recipients that have not fulfilled the objectives or reporting requirements of previous awards.

Potential implementers must be registered and active in the U.S. government's System for Award Management (SAM) to receive U.S. federal assistance. The registration process can take several weeks to complete so it is important to avoid any delay. If a project is selected for an award and the registration is not completed, the award could be delayed to the next FY, pending the availability of funding. (See section 8 on SAM registration)

6. Concept Note Criteria:

a) Project basics, including working title, anticipated project length (Note: Applicants may propose project periods of up to 60 months), location/site, and project cost estimate (amount requested from AFCP; in U.S. dollars).

b) Background information on the project implementer, along with CV of project director and key project participants.

c) Scope of work summarizing (1) the preservation goals and the activities planned to achieve those goals; and (2) any broader host country or community goals and the activities planned to achieve those goals; (i.e., what they hope to gain from the project beyond the preserved heritage and how they plan to get there; 2,000 characters maximum).

d) Rational for AFCP support, explaining why it's in the interests of the U.S. government to fund the project, specifically, how the project benefits and impacts Samoa.

e) Five high quality digital images (JPEGs) or audiovisual files that convey the nature and condition of the site, collection or tradition and show the urgency or the need for the proposed project (collapsing walls, water damage, etc.).

7. Cost sharing and Other Forms of Cost Participation:

There is no minimum or maximum percentage of cost participation required. When an implementing partner offers cost sharing, it is understood and agreed that the partner must provide the amount of cost sharing as stipulated in the budget of the application and later included in an approved agreement. The implementing partner will be responsible for tracking and reporting on any cost share or outside funding, which is subject to audit per 2 CFR 200. Cost sharing may be in the form of allowable direct or indirect costs.

8. Ineligible Activities and Unallowable Costs:

The following activities or costs will not be supported, and applications requesting AFCP support for any of these activities or costs will be deemed ineligible:

- a) Preservation or purchase of privately or commercially owned cultural objects, collections, or real property, including those whose transfer from private or commercial to public ownership is envisioned, planned, or in process but not complete at the time of application.
- b) Preservation of natural heritage (physical, biological, and geological formations, paleontological collections, habitats of threatened species of animals and plants, fossils, etc.) unless the natural heritage has a cultural heritage connection or dimension.
- c) Preservation of hominid or human remains.
- d) Preservation of news media (newspapers, newsreels, radio and TV programs, etc.).
- e) Preservation of published materials available elsewhere (books, periodicals, etc.).
- f) Development of curricula or educational materials for classroom use.
- g) Archaeological excavations or exploratory surveys for research purposes.
- h) Historical research, except in cases where the research is justifiable and integral to the success of the proposed project.
- i) Acquisition or creation of new exhibits, objects, or collections for new or existing museums.
- j) Construction of new buildings, building additions, or permanent coverings (over archaeological sites, for example).
- k) Commissions of new works of art or architecture for commemorative or economic development purposes.
- l) Creation of new or the modern adaptation of existing traditional dances, songs, chants, musical compositions, plays, or other performances.
- m) Creation of replicas or conjectural reconstructions of cultural objects or sites that no longer exist.
- n) Relocation of cultural sites from one physical location to another.
- o) Removal of cultural objects or elements of cultural sites from the country for any reason.
- p) Digitization of cultural objects or collections, unless part of a larger, clearly defined conservation, documentation, or public diplomacy effort.
- q) Conservation plans or other studies, unless they are one component of a larger project to implement the results of those studies.
- r) Cash reserves, endowments, or revolving funds (funds must be expended within the award period [up to five years] and may not be used to create an endowment or revolving fund).
- s) Costs of fund-raising campaigns.

- t) Contingency, unforeseen, or miscellaneous costs or fees.
- u) Costs of work performed prior to announcement of the award unless allowable per 2 CFR 200.458 and approved by the Grants Officer.
- v) International travel, except in cases where travel is justifiable and integral to the success of the proposed project or to provide project leaders with learning and exchange opportunities with cultural heritage experts.
- w) Individual projects costing less than US \$10,000 or more than \$500,000.
- x) Independent U.S. projects overseas.

9. SAM Registration:

An implementing partner must be registered in the U.S. government's System for Award Management (SAM) prior to receiving U.S. federal assistance unless they meet one of the exemptions specified in the Federal Assistance Directive (<https://usdos.sharepoint.com/sites/A-OPE/FA/SitePages/Policy.aspx>). The SAM registration process, which requires either a Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) or a NATO Commercial and Government Entity (NCAGE) code, can take weeks or months, especially for non-U.S. applicants. Non-U.S. based applicants may request a NCAGE code at <https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/scage/CageList.aspx>. SAM will assign a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) automatically to any entity registering or renewing its record in the system. Registration in SAM is free: <https://sam.gov/>.

10. Disclaimer:

Issuance of this funding opportunity does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the AFCP program or the U.S. government. The Center reserves the right to waive program formalities and to reduce, revise, or increase project scopes and budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds.